AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

VOL. 9. NO. 24. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1919. WHOLE NO. 440.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

A. F. OF L. COUNCIL TO STUDY PLUMB PLAN

Washington, Sept. 4.—The A. F. of L. executive council will make a thorough study of the Plumb plan proposal of the railroad question before it passes upon the subject. This was decided upon at an extra session of the council held during the week of August 25-30, when many problems confronting the workers were considered.

At the adjournment of the meeting President Gompers made this statement:

"The executive council had before it the representatives of the labor organizations and their counsel, who discovered the Plumb plan of railway ownership or railway control and administration. The council considered the plan, as well as the provisions of the Esch Bill dealing with this important subject. The plan and the bill, so the council declared, are of such consequence of importance to labor, to the people and to the country, that the council decided to defer final action determining the position of the American Federation of Labor thereon and that in the meantime a sub-committee was created for the purpose of examining into all the facts and evidence obtainable, to secure the advice of all who can contribute to a full understanding of the subject, and the subcommittee after its examination and investigation to report to the executive council of the American Federation of Labor upon the entire subject."

The action of the council by the executive council, as was the cigar makers' strike. Regarding the labor movement, President Gompers said:

"The clearmakers of the United States are engaged in striking for improved conditions occasioned by the high cost of living, and they have the moral and financial support to it, and will do additionally as regard to labor and friends to come to the financial and moral assistance of the men engaged in that controversy."

WOUGH! WOUGH! WOUGH!

Washington, Sept. 6.—Anarchy reigned Soldiers are necessary in every strategic point! The president fiddles while Rome burns!

The above quotation is a phrase by former United States Senator Sherman, head of the American Publicity association, who demands that "army units should be distributed through the railroad centers, where trouble is most to be feared."

The above statement is the theory effort by the president and other citizens of all political creeds and classes to adjust these differences. He sees all the colors in the rainbow and in his frantic plea for assistance to the president with sitting "serenely in the white house, apparently oblivious to the danger that confronts the nation."

Mr. Sherman would solve the question mighty quick. He would station army units at all points, (examine soldiers as to their fitness by experience, establish motor truck units, make the profiteers pay for unnecessary travel, etc. etc. It is also suggested that state authorities establish a list of strike breakers who are not under the control of the brotherhoods. No mention is made of machine guns, poison gases, battle planes or trench warfare. It is assumed that these incidents would be totally brought into play by Mr. Bourne's "solution" developed.

In the meantime the railroad shop men voted to postpone their strike and the railroad brotherhoods decided not to sanction a strike.

Mr. Bourne's outburst, however, is what newspaper reporters term "hot stuff."

MOONEY STRIKE COLLAPSES.

Chicago, Sept. 6.—When the fact A. F. of L. convention refused to sidetrack its agitation in favor of a new deal for Tom mooney and support a general strike, it was roundly condemned by persons who claim to be "radicals."

That this hotspurs cool down in a few weeks, as is indicated by this diplomatic acknowledgement issued by a newly-created "defense league" in this city:

"That the forces of labor are not now sufficiently united to demand the freedom of their innocent union brethren, Mooney and Billings, is plainly evident by the reports of a host of delegates at the recent A. F. of L. meeting. Consequently, the call for a general strike was cancelled until a more favorable date."

STIFFEN SCHOOL LAWS.

Atlanta, Sept. 6.—The Georgia legislature has passed an act requiring every county in the state to levy from 1 to 3 mills in addition to other appropriations for schools. Other legislation provides:

Increased appropriations for vocational education and put evening and part-time training in the state school laws.

Strengthening the compulsory-attendance law.

Requiring school buildings to be constructed in accordance with plans furnished by the state department of education.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Sept. 6.—The Typographical union has secured wage increases for members employed on commercial shops. Job men and operators will be paid $44 a week and machinist-operators, $42. Day shifts will be operated on the 48-hour week basis, with a 44-hour week for the first night shift and a 42-hour week for the second night shift, with an additional $3 a week for both night shifts. The union is now negotiating the same rates for the newspaper members.

PAINTERS ADVANCE.

Columbus, Ga., Sept. 6.—Painters have reduced their work day from 10 to nine hours and increased wages from 50 cents to 62 cents an hour.

Wallace, Idaho, Sept. 6.—A wage increase of 50 cents a day has been secured by the local painters. The new rate is $7.50 for eight hours.

NEWS WRITERS UNITE.

San Francisco, Sept. 6.—Over 100 newspaper writers have organized and will ask for an International Typographical union charter. It is stated.

OPPOSE LONG HOURS.

San Francisco, Sept. 6.—The Drug Clerks' union asks that their long work day be abandoned and wages advanced to $15 a month.

MANY VOICES CONFUSE BRITISH UNIONISTS

Washington, Sept. 6.—"Too many voices call too many orders and too many conflicting advice" is one of the references James W. Sullivan makes in a statement on industrial conditions in Great Britain. Mr. Sullivan is a member of New York typographical union and has spent years of active service in the trade union movement. He was a member of a commission appointed by the national civic federation to study Kaiserism. The commission included representatives of business and Charles S. Barrett, president of the Farmers' Educational Co-Operative Union of America.

Mr. Sullivan, in the interview verbal coinages of stampeders after economic will-o'-the wisps" the many phrases that are now so recklessly used.

"The stage now arrived through the tutorship of the British government and the establishment of its various committees," he says, "is less satisfactory than the present status of the employer and employed classes in the United States.

"Both sides here know where they stand. In Britain, what with works committees, joint councils, industrial courts, joint committees and the standing trade union agreements, too many authorities and too many orders and profiter too much advice."

The working of Whitley council is explained at length by Mr. Sullivan. These councils were recommended by a government commission, and its report has been given much attention in America because it "heralded a new age." Then councils, in a few words "do not suggest any method in shop administration not known to American workers in the metal trades. The main principle advocated is 'granting to work people a greater share in matters affecting their industry.'

"Up to May 1, 23 joint industrial councils have been organized and constitutions drafted for 19 other industries. Steps had also been taken to apply the Whitley report to government industrial establishments, the civil service and administrative, professional, technical and clerical staffs of the government.

"Evidently the Whitley recommendations have looked better to the public and to small industries than to the big unions, as councils have sprung, formed in shipbuilding, cotton, railways, engineering (metal trades), iron, shipping and steel. From the American viewpoint, the Whitley committee recommendations and the work done thereunder to date show excellent intention, elaborate preparation, but a rather scanty crop of results."

LONGSHOREMEN GAIN.

Seattle, Sept. 6.—An agreement has been signed by the International Longshoremen's association and waterfront employers of Washington, Oregon and British Columbia, covering the Pacific coast states to August 12. The new rates provide for a flat rate of $1.25 an hour straight time and $1.25 an hour for overtime. All other work will be paid at the rate of 62 cents an hour straight time and $1.20 for overtime. Checkers, weighers and scalers are to be paid by the month shall be paid not less than $150 a month for an eight-hour day, a week with extra pay for overtime.

When men are ordered to outport jobs, and both-way transportation shall be paid by employers, who shall furnish lodging and meals and pay traveling time if between the hours of 7 a. m. and 6 p. m. In these charges the employe must stay on the job until it is finished unless he is incapacitated by sickness or injury. Where work calls for rubber boots, gas masks or other appliances, same shall be furnished by the employers.

POSTAL EMPLOYES CONFER.

Washington, Sept. 6.—The eleventh convention of the National Federation of Postal Employes convened in this city under auspices more impressive than at any other time in its history. Over 300 delegates were present. Reports by President Hyatt and General Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty show an increase in membership, finances and in the number of grievances to redress grievances under which postal workers are employed.

Philadelphia, Sept. 6.—Organization of the postoffice's arbitrary attitude toward workers marked the opening session of the National Federation of Letter Carriers. President Gainor declared that the "attitude of the postmaster general is out of tune with modern methods." Increased salaries, better conditions and tenure of place subject only to the whim of the employer."

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Sept. 6.—The Building Material Teamsters' union has raised wages to $1 a hour. Rates are now $6 and $7 a day.

Petersburg, Ind., Sept. 6.—Teamsters at this place have found that trade unionism is a good investment. They organized and hourly wages are 15 cents higher.

Grafton, W. Va., Sept. 6.—Teamsters in this city have organized and affiliated with the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

161 COAL FATALITIES.

Washington, Sept. 6.—Reports to the United States bureau of mines from state mine inspectors in all states except Kentucky show that 161 men were killed during last July. This is about the coal mines of the states reporting, as compared with 208 in the preceding month, excepting Georgia and Oregon, in May, 1918. The 1919 report has shown a decrease of 47 fatalities from the record of the previous year.

CEREAL WORKERS GAIN.

Pekin, Ill., Sept. 6.—The Corn Products company has settled its dispute with striking cereal workers. Shop committees will be recognized. Organization agreed to, the basic eight-hour day established and wages will be increased.

METAL TRADES UNITE.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 6.—For the purpose of standardizing wages and working conditions in the metal trades, these workers have formed the Metal Trades of Virginia, which will hold annual conferences.

WHY INTERVENTION--ALSO, FOR WHOM?

War with Mexico is in the minds of those persons who have had war in their mind for months. Those persons have tried by every subtle device to make in a statement on industrial conditions in Great Britain. Mr. Sullivan is a member of New York typographical union and has spent years of active service in the trade union movement. He was a member of a commission appointed by the national civic federation to study Kaiserism. The commission included representatives of business and Charles S. Barrett, president of the Farmers' Educational Co-Operative Union of America.

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BLAME STOCK JOBBERS FOR HIGH COST LIVING

Boston, Sept. 6.—Stock jobbers and gambling, are blamed by people to pay interest on fictitious stock and bonds, which raise prices of food and other necessities, says Thomas W. Lawson, broker and author, who presents his views in a vigorous manner in a local newspaper.

"The cause of high cost living is stock gambling—the main, the foundation cause," he says. "Stock gambling is the cause of high cost living as the sun the cause of day.

"You will ask if this is so why do not the people tackle the vital problem from the stock gamble side instead of spending time along the present lines of agitation.

"The answer is, monied people are the beneficiaries of high cost living, of stock gambling, so the first duty of the rich, when high cost living is agitated, is to do what they can to aid the system in steering the people off into a wilder mess of logic that they will become, as they are today, bewildered to distraction—to the point where they will accept any fool reason instead of the real one.

"The system has unlimited extra money at its command, hundreds and hundreds of millions annually. It has a large part of the press in its pocket, its lecture propaganda. Thousands of the very brightest men are on its payroll to spread its fallacies, and hundreds of thousands of volunteer agents, bank, insurance and railroad men, go all over the country to preach its 'foundation' arguments. Then it has senators and congressmen, to say nothing of professors and town meeting blatherskites to prove the whiteness of its blackest pitch.

"Today the nation's wealth is more than double $275,000,000,000, which came into existence because of the world war, more than $100,000,000,000 is now in this man-made wealth. The annual interest and dividends on this fund are equal to around four figures, more than $5,000,000,000. It is this additional $100,000,000 that has caused the cost of living up to its present prohibitive figures.

"If this $100,000,000,000 had not been created, this $5,000,000,000 would not be collected, and not be added to the price of what the people consume. Thus from day to day of the things they consume would be $5,000,000,000 less and the cost of living would today be at least half what it is."

INJUNCTION REFUSED.

New York, Sept. 6.—Supreme Court Justice Guy has refused to issue an injunction against striking window cleaners, who are "picketing several places. The employers claimed that the strikers, by threats, violence and intimidation" were preventing other workers from securing employment.

The court refused to accept this general statement. "A mere allegation of picketing" setting forth no other or any facts showing that the picketing is being done in a manner not of an illegal way, is not sufficient," said the court, which intimates that it has power to act when criminal law is violated. The trade union movement insists that police attitude toward these cases and the accused should be given a trial by jury.

WILL POOL INTERESTS.

Bethlehem, Pa., Sept. 6.—The Bethlehem Steel company has refused to recognize the eight-hour law, the eight-hour day, and the general committee representing these employes has decided to take no further action in an individual movement, but will pool their interests with other trades in other steel mills.

The national committee for organizing the iron and steel workers was asked to call a conference of representatives of workers employed in the plants of the company at the earliest possible date.

WIN UNION SHOP.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 6.—The union shop is one of the provisions of an agreement signed by the Omaha elevator constructors and employers. Former wages of 67½ cents an hour are advanced to 90 cents. Helpers are increased from 45 cents to 60 cents. The agreement dates back to July 1.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 6.—A union shop has been won by metal polishers employed at the Detroit Stove plant after a three-months' strike.

BRIDGEPORT STRIKE ENDS.

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 6.—The Celluloid Novelty company has yielded to the company agreeing to reinstate the striking employes. The strikers the company walked out a month ago and receive commitees of the men to adjust grievances.

BROOM MAKERS UNITE.

Chicago, Sept. 6.—Bitterly of the broom and whisk makers' international union report that 11 charters have been issued during the year, and an active organizing campaign is proposed.

UPHOLD COLD STORAGE LAW.

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 6.—The state supreme court has upheld the Smith cold storage law which gives the state the right to seize and sell an exhibit section food which has been held in cold storage longer than the statute provides.

HIGHER ARMY-NAVY PAY FAVORED AT CAPITAL

Washington, Sept. 4.—Military officers of the army and navy are giving consideration of congress for increasing the pay of all officers and men in the armed services of the government—the army, navy, marine corps, coast guard and coast and capital services. Under the bill all officers, active and retired, of these services would receive an increase of 30 per cent annually and the pay of all enlisted men, active and retired, would be increased 50 per cent. The proposed bill is especially interested in the bill, and in urging its passage is quoted as follows:

"The bill calls for a flat increase on salaries should be granted from that of the president, the vice president, cabinet officers and assistant secretaries should all be increased 30 per cent; those of senators and representatives 50 per cent, and those of all others in the government service, on both the military and civil sides, at least 30 per cent. Legislative difficulties, however, present themselves against voting at this time such a bill. Hence, I am confining my efforts to what may be properly called the defensive branches of the government service.

"The percentages are designed to take care of what is conservatively estimated will be a material and permanent increase in living expenses over the scale which prevailed prior to the war."

WEIRD R. R. FIGURES.

New York, Sept. 6.—In opposing the proposed increase in railroad wages the president of the American institute of consulting engineers published some weird figures on wages paid to railroad employes. The consulting engineers declare that "from the available statistics" show that in the matter of wages per mile of all railway labor was $90 a month, and during the year 1918 the average was $118 a month.

Against these figures can be placed the $118 per month and the report of a commission to the director general of railroads. The chairman of the commission was former Secretary of the Interior Lane. These investigators had secured the opinions of every railroad, and, on the question of wage increases said:

"It was been a somewhat popular impression that railroad employes were among the highest paid workers. But figures gathered from the railroads themselves show that Fifty-one per cent of all employes during December, 1917, received less than $100 a month, 40 per cent received $130 per month or less. Even among the locomotive engineers, commonly spoken of as highly paid, a preponderating number receive less than $150 per month. Between the grades receiving from $150 to $250 per month, there is included less than 2 per cent of all the employes (excluding officials), and those aggregate less than 60,000 men out of a grand total of 2,000,000."

SAY PACKERS COERCE.

Washington, Sept. 6.—Charges that the big five packing companies have coerced witnesses appearing before the senate investigating committee have been placed in the committee's hands.

The accusations were contained in a telegram from H. A. Jastro, president of the Pacific coast council of the National Live Stock association.

"The National Live Stock association feels that it is its duty and responsibility of proper conduct of their business when subject to the unfair methods used in the packing stage. They are making lavish expenditures in a strong effort to maintain their unconscionable position."

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Wilmington, Del., Sept. 6.—Platforms employed by the Wilmington and Philadelphia Traction company have secured wage increases and union recognition by the arbitration process.

St. Catherines, Canada, Sept. 6.—The business agent of the Street Car Men's union was elected president of the company. They are making lavish expenditures in a strong effort to maintain their unconscionable position."

PENSION BILL REVIVED.

Washington, Sept. 4.—United States Senator McNary of Oregon has introduced an old-age pension bill similar to one introduced by his predecessor, the late Senator Lane. The bill provides that any person must be 65 years of age, must have been a citizen 20 years, and shall have an income that averaged $4 a week for the 12 months next preceding his application.

SECURE 44-HOUR WEEK.

San Francisco, Sept. 6.—Nearly half a million farm hands have signed the union-shop agreement of the Farm Workers' union. The 44-hour week and an 50-cent minimum are included.

GET 44-HOUR WEEK.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 6.—Organized garment workers in this city have established the 44-hour week, the predecessor, the late Senator Lane. The bill provides that any person must be 65 years of age, must have been a citizen 20 years, and shall have an income that averaged $4 a week for the 12 months next preceding his application.

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PUBLIC SCHOOL AID URGED BY EDUCATOR

Washington, Sept. 6.—That the federal government should co-operate with the states in the support of public schools, that this support should amount to not less than $300,000,000 in the first decade, slowly increasing thereafter, that the states should be required to spend at least twice as much for schools as they receive from the federal government—these are the conclusions of Kirtland Statist Commissioner of Education Claxton in a circular just issued.

"The war has turned a searchlight on the nation's interest in the education of its citizens," the circular educator. "We have, as it were, overnight come to see that just as the prosperity, wealth, health, and safety of the states depend on the intelligence and individuality, upon the education—of their citizens, so, and to an equal if not larger extent, do the wealth, power, and safety of the nation depend on the intelligence and virtue—that is upon the education—of its citizens. The strength of the nation is made up of the strength of the individual states, but in the strength of the nation's hundred and ten millions of more of people who are citizens of the nation at the same time and to the same extent that they are citizens of their respective states. The federal government, therefore, has a vital interest in the schools, this interest carries responsibilities.

"The responsibilities include support, liberal and generous, and the requirement of certain minimum standards of efficiency. This should at once with, say $125,000,000 a year, and increasing by equal stages to not less than $300,000,000 within the decade, the federal government should apportion, and the states co-operate with the states in the education of their citizens, of all the citizens alike of state and nation. After this appropriation has reached its maximum, it should be repeated, it should increase annually by at least 4 per cent of $300,000,000."

OPPOSE TRAINING BILL.

Washington, Sept. 6.—Opposition to compulsory military training is indicated in a bill introduced by Congressman Dent, of Alabama, former chairman of the military affairs committee. The bill would eliminate compulsory training and provide for the creation of a standing army of 250,000, as against the war department's bill calling for 500,000.

On the subject of compulsory military training Dent said: "The convention accepted the views of the A. F. of L. executive council, which declared:

"With the danger of militarism destroyed, the ideal of a democracy established there is no good reason for large standing armies, great navies, or stupendous munitions plants, whether governmental or privately owned.

"The views we express upon this subject are not in fundamental opposition to proper physical training: on the contrary, we hold that the development of the manhood of America should have the fullest and broadest opportunity for its normal physical and mental training. But we do insist that in view of the history of military aristocracy, and in view of the present situation and the outlook for the future, that physical training should not be confused with compulsory military service, service thinly veiled in disguise militarism in its inciptency."

WANT SIX-HOUR DAY.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 6.—At a convention of delegates representing 100,000 mine workers in the hard anthracite districts of this state, these declarations were made:

New contracts will no longer than two years. Individual agreements and contracts in mining industry. Increase of 60 per cent in wages above the scale provided by the supplemental agreement of May 1, 1917. Increase of $1 a day for day men. Until the increase of the 60 per cent, no more than six hours from bank to bank for all men. Time and a half for side day labor and monthly men. Five days a week, time and a half for overtime and for work on Saturdays and holidays. Union shop, with full recognition of the United Mine Workers of America as a party to the agreement.

BOILER MAKERS WIN.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 6.—Boiler makers have won a limited but vital victory in their three-months' strike by adjusting a wage scale with the Drake Williams and Mount company. The minimum rate for boiler makers will be $7 a day per hour and for experienced helpers, 60 cents an hour. Work less than 30 cents. Provision is made for the settlement of future difficulties without resorting to a suspension of work.

CO-OPS. PAY DIVIDENDS.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 4.—The Co-operative society announces a 6 per cent dividend on every dollar expended by members. Sufficient funds were set aside for depreciation. A 2 per cent was placed in the reserve fund. Increased membership is also reported.

ADOPT 3-PLATOON PLAN.

Hibbing, Minn., Sept. 6.—City authorities have established the three-platoon system for municipal firemen as a result of agitation by the organized workers.

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Omaha, Neb., Sept. 6.—Boiler makers have won a limited but vital victory in their three-months' strike by adjusting a wage scale with the Drake Williams and Mount company. The minimum rate for boiler makers will be $7 a day per hour and for experienced helpers, 60 cents an hour. Work less than 30 cents. Provision is made for the settlement of future difficulties without resorting to a suspension of work.

CO-OPS. PAY DIVIDENDS.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 4.—The Co-operative society announces a 6 per cent dividend on every dollar expended by members. Sufficient funds were set aside for depreciation. A 2 per cent was placed in the reserve fund. Increased membership is also reported.

ADOPT 3-PLATOON PLAN.

Hibbing, Minn., Sept. 6.—City authorities have established the three-platoon system for municipal firemen as a result of agitation by the organized workers.

STEEL WORKERS' CASE BEFORE THE PRESIDENT

Washington, Sept. 6.—President Gompers and other labor representatives presented the steel workers' case to President Wilson. The chief executive should remove the causes of disturbances in this industry, and the workers attempt to secure the benefits of collective bargaining. No official statement was made by the trade unionists as a result of the conference.

The steel workers' case was considered by the A. F. of L. executive council during the week and President Gompers made this statement:

"The executive council had under consideration the steel strike and recent organizing effort and have endeavored to secure for the workers the best results. The hope is entertained that an amicable adjustment may be reached before any outbreak or cessation of work shall be inaugurated."

Judge Gary, of the steel trust, had previously refused to meet a committee of trade unionists to discuss grievances of workers in this industry. Recently, however, Judge Gary ignored the victimizing policy of the steel operators, and said his corporation and its subsidiaries "do not combine with labor unions in such" cases simply refuses to do business with them. He says there was a question of "open shop" principle involved, representing the employes.

To this the committee replied:

"The only way by which we can prove our authority is to put the open shop to a vote, and we do not sincerely hope you will not force a strike to prove this point.

"We asked for a conference for the purpose of arranging a meeting where the question of wages and conditions of employment and collective bargaining could be discussed. Your answer is a flat refusal for such conference.

"The conditions of employment, the home life, the misery in the hovels of the steel workers, are a matter of notoriety. Surely this is a matter that might well be discussed in the conference.

"You also made reference to the attitude of your corporation in not opposing or preventing your employes from joining a labor organization. It is a matter of common knowledge that the Rockefeller interests and your corporation and subsidiaries have for years most effectually prevented any attempt at organization by your employes."

TO TRAIN R. R. WORKERS.

Washington, Sept. 6.—The United States railroad administration calls attention of railroad officials to the new vocational education law, recently passed by congress, February 23, 1917. The officials are urged to establish part-time schools for railroad apprentices and other others who come within the scope of the act.

In a circular issued to the railroad officials it is stated that "where it is found necessary in order to facilitate this work, railroads will be authorized, on request, to fit up suitable study or recitation rooms in different shops where such schools may be held. Where such schools are established, railroads will be authorized to pay instructors at their usual rate for the time spent in attending such schools. Apprentices in the shops where such schools are established will be required to attend not less than 200 hours per year."

REFUSE MOONEY FACTS.

Washington, Sept. 6.—On the ground that publication of such information would be incompatible with the public interest, Secretary of Labor Wilson has declined to furnish the house of representatives with a copy of the report of the activities of the department of justice in the case of Thomas J. Mooney. The report was requested in a resolution by Congressman Blanton, of Texas.

The secretary of labor said that the department has developed close ties with the Mooney case and that these inquiries were being continued.

BOOKBINDERS GAIN.

Indianapolis, Sept. 6.—Officers of the International association of Bookbinders report a membership of 19,415 on August 16 last. The report was made at the Boston convention.

Chicago, Sept. 6.—Organized bindery women have raised wages $2.52 a week.

New York, Sept. 6.—Bookbinders employed by the Rand Kardex company are picketing the stores operated by the company. The strikers are affiliated with the Retail Clerks' International Protective association and are asking for a 44-hour week, minimum for beginners, $16 for salesmen, and higher rates for managers.

CAN'T STAY UNIONISM.

Vincennes, Ind., Sept. 6.—In an attempt to destroy the spirit of trade unionism among furniture workers, employers granted the Saturday half holiday and increased pay $1 a week. Now the furniture workers are asking: "What could we secure if a 30-per-cent union were established?"

STRIKES ARE DECLARED UNLAWFUL IN PROPOSED RAILROAD SOLUTION

Washington, Sept. 6.—Senator Cummins, chairman of the senate interstate commerce committee, has introduced a railroad-solution bill which would outlaw strikes of railroad employes. A railroad worker can quit his employment as an individual but where "two or more persons enter into such combination, in connection with the intent substantially to hinder, retard or prevent the movement of commodities or persons in interstate commerce," they shall be deemed guilty of a conspiracy and fined not exceeding $500 or jailed for not exceeding six months, or both.

In presenting his bill Mr. Cummins stated that one of his reasons was to have it referred to the senate interstate commerce committee as a whole, that it might "furnish the basis of the further work of that committee."

The senator said the bill was the work of a sub-committee of the interstate commerce committee, and consisted of Senators Cummins, Robinson, Poindexter, Kellogg and himself. He said that this sub-committee differed on some points, and while he agreed that the labor portion of the bill was "a somewhat delicate subject," the members of the sub-committee were unanimous on the provisions relating to labor.

Other features of this bill, which is referred to as a measure by the committee that will pass upon it, are: Fixing of rates to provide a fair profit, and divide these properties into not more than 20 and not more than 25 "separate and independent systems."

Permit the interstate commerce commission to place a value on the railroads, for the purpose of determining "a fair return upon it."

Create a railway transportation board, to arrange for a grouping of the roads into competitive systems and to have authority over the physical operation of these private-owned systems. The board will be a department of the present functions of the interstate commerce commission, the latter body to be vested mainly in rate making, valuation and accounting.

Create a committee of wages and working conditions to adjust disputes between railroads and their employes that can not be adjusted under existing law. This committee shall consist of four representatives of the railroads and four representatives of the workers, which will be recommended by the organized railroad workers. The members of this committee shall receive $15,000 a year. A majority shall decide any question before it, but where the committee is evenly divided the railway transportation board shall make final decision. If a railroad official refuses to accept that decision he shall be fined not less than $1,000 and if employes strike, the same penalty shall be applied.

The percentage of surplus earnings shall be placed in a fund for the benefit of employes and shall be expended to promote better working conditions through inventions and research, to indicate a policy to extend insurance and pension systems, to develop industrial education of employes and to establish a system of profit sharing by employes.

Provide for a board constituted by an employes' advisory council consisting of one representative of each organized body of railroad employes.

In supporting the bill Senator Robinson, a member of the sub-committee, said that the proposed bill is not an "open shop" measure.

"The right to strike has heretofore been recognized in our laws, particularly in certain provisions of the Clayton act. Those laws should be modified and strike of employes on railroads engaged in interstate commerce should be forbidden."

LABOR MUST BE HEARD.

Cleveland, Ohio, Sept. 6.—"No employer is so good and so wise that there can be placed in his hands with safety the power of determining the terms of employment and conditions of labor," said John P. Frey, editor of the International Molders' Journal, in a labor day speech.

The speaker declared that "those whose standard of living is determined by the wage rate and conditions of labor must have a voice in determining what these shall be.

"Neither organization of employers directly or through their phoney representatives can be in the representation of organized labor for the purpose of considering their grievances. Labor is entitled to a democratic machinery through which their particular industrial problems can be adjusted. For too long employers and employes have been meeting by commissions and boards of industrial problems without the presence of representatives of organized labor to effectively represent the definite understandings of some of the problems which affect labor in most instances utterly failed to understand the necessities, to say nothing of the rights and privileges of those who were in their employ."

GUN MEN RAMPANT.

Charleston, W. Va., Sept. 6.—Gun men running wild in the Tug river mining section of this state and the United Mine Workers of America, of workers, nine of whom were brutally shot down, are being asked to do much space to operators in this section and in other parts of the state have been increased 33 cents a ton. The West Virginia Federationist points this out and says that "men who are not being paid by the ton, but by the day, or, more properly speaking by the acre, and they were paid about 33 cents a ton.

"They demanded $1 an acre. As soon as this happened the gun men were brought into play. That is the law and order that prevails in the sacred mountains of West Virginia where the toilsted the state constabulary upon the taxpayers of West Virginia.

"The United Mine Workers of America will continue their opposition to these Baldwin-Felts detectives. Licensed and other officers of this district are authorized to deputize men who will assist them in establishing law and order in that section.

TELEGRAPHERS RE-ELECT.

Chicago, Sept. 6.—Roscoe H. Johnson of this city was elected president of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, at a special convention. The new official succeeds A. F. Sullivan, resigned. Miss Mary J. Macauley of Buffalo, N. Y., was re-elected secretary and Paul P. Schnur, this city, secretary-treasurer. The convention is the first union held since the telegraphers and commercial telegraphers and the experience gained from that movement have been capitalized by these determined men, who will carry on their organizing campaign and insist on the right to bargain collectively, that gentlemen may be allied.

CIGAR STRIKE SPREADS.

Chicago, Sept. 6.—The strike of cigar makers to enforce higher wages not only includes the eastern section of the country, but many other localities. St. Detroit, Sept. 6.—Strikers are conducting a vigorous organizing campaign and are shouting these low wage employes, many of whom are women and girls, that their policy of insisting on increases in wages by the manufacturers means disaster to the cause. Cigarmakers are led by the A. F. of L. executive council, which has pledged every possible aid to this movement.

ABOLISH PIECE WORK.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 6.—Piece work is abolished by an agreement between the Journeymen Tailors' union and employers. The union refused to agree to work with non-members of the employers' association. A 44-hour weekly minimum is established and where women perform the same kind of work as men they shall be paid the same rates.

ENGINEERS ADVANCE.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 6.—Stationary